

Unit VI. (fusion with handwork) Make a seine of all the string in all your homes (creative group-project for the entire class through the term).

Unit VII. (fusion with composition) Write a letter to Dr. Van Dyke, presenting to him the seine, scrap-books, chowder, aquarium, etc., and inviting him to address the school.

PLANS FOR THE ELEMENTARY ENGLISH REVIEW

The Curriculum Commission of The National Council of Teachers of English has organized three committees to investigate and report upon courses of study in grade school English. The committees are centering their attention upon literature, creative writing, and essential English, which includes oral and written composition, correct usage, and reading.

Reports of these committees, as well as other Council reports bearing upon grade school English, are published in the *Elementary English Review*, an official organ of The Council. Forthcoming articles which will appear in the *Elementary English Review* include a series of papers on children's books prepared under the auspices of the Book Evaluation Committee of the American Library Association, a series of articles on research in elementary school English, published under the direction of a committee of research specialists, papers on grammar by J. C. Seegers, of Temple University, and C. H. Ward, of New Haven, Conn., articles on the work of Vachel Lindsay by Frederic Melcher, editor of the *Publishers' Weekly* and donor of the Newbery Medal, and Hazelton Spencer, of The Johns Hopkins University, and a sketch entitled "From Howard Pyle to Willy Pogany," by Ruth A. Barnes of the State Teachers College at Ypsilanti, Michigan.

THE READING TABLE

CHARACTER EDUCATION, Department of Superintendence, Tenth Yearbook. Washington, D. C.: The Department of Superintendence of The National Education Association. 1932. Pp. 535. \$2.00.

This yearbook is the result of investigations made by the Commission on Character Education, and contains—in addition to discussions, conclusions, and suggestions—a wealth of data from many sources, lists of numerous tests and scales, an outline for case study, experimental studies, and principles underlying character education. The book contains, also, official records.

The Commission builds upon the affirmation that modern education, as well as the great religions of our western civilization, is based upon the principle of respect for personality; therefore, one of the functions of the school must be the training of character. They make no attempt to offer a definite plan of character education, but do try to "present points of view which, it is hoped, will stimulate thought and discussion in the direction of a more constructive school life and, in fact, a more constructive life in general."

The big question, they say, is how to focus attention upon this type of education without defeating its purpose. To that end, they take this position: "Character education consists of constructive reactions to life situations without thought on the part of the individual as to whether his reaction in a particular situation is one calculated to bring about his own self-improvement." Because character education so permeates the whole school situation, they assert that any good curriculum is a character education curriculum; also, "The good act is the one which creates as many and as worthy satisfactions as possible for as many people as possible over as long a time as possible."

The discussions involve all phases of school life in relation to character education, as well as the relation of the home and other organizations and agencies to the

question. The material is of such value that every teacher should be acquainted with it. It is an epoch-making piece of work in the field of progressive education.

B. J. L.

WORKBOOK FOR FIRST YEAR LATIN. By Lillie M. Lawrence and Nina F. Raynor. New York: American Book Company. 1932. Pp. 169.

This workbook provides material which may be used either as practice exercises for the pupil or as tests of achievement to be given by the teacher upon completion of units of work. In general the Workbook presents those facts of Latin vocabulary, inflection and syntax, of Latin word formation and English derivatives, and of Roman civilization included in several recent beginner's books which follow the recommendations of the Report (1924) of the Classical Investigation conducted by the American Classical League. The Workbook is easily adaptable to almost any modern course in first year Latin for three reasons. (1) Each exercise or test includes so many items that omissions are possible to suit the variations in textbooks as to the order of presentation. The pupil may be directed to omit certain items not yet studied. (2) The tests on inflection and on syntax are specialized and limited in content as indicated by the title of each test. Therefore, the order in which these exercises or tests are employed may be changed to accord with the textbook used. (3) The tests on Roman civilization deal with those facts relating to geography, topography, daily life, religion, mythology, history, legend, and the Roman military system which are generally included in the modern textbook for the first year's study of Latin.

J. A. S.

JUDY'S OCEAN VOYAGE. By Doris Bernstein. New York: American Book Company. 1932. Pp. 160. 60 cents.

This book, of about third-grade level, gives an interesting account of a little girl's trip to France. It tells all the things she

had to do before leaving home and after, in order to make such a trip, and relates all the interesting incidents connected with the voyage. Since it is true to life, children will enjoy the vicarious experiences and, through them, secure added ability in reading.

L'ARRABBIATA von Paul Heyse. Edited by Sophia H. Patterson. New York: American Book Company. 1931. Pp. 145.

In accordance with approved modern methods in foreign language teaching, this edition of L'Arrabbiata is equipped with direct method exercises which are designed to aid the pupil in his effort to attain the main objective of his study—the ability to read German easily and understandingly. The exercises aim to insure a balanced growth in those fundamental language skills without which real facility in reading is impossible.

The text is divided into lesson units, each containing the amount of reading matter which might reasonably be assigned for one lesson to the average second-year German class. Each exercise group includes questions on the subject matter of the lesson, word study, brief grammar drill, material for English-German composition, and one or two suggestions for original themes on topics closely allied in subject to the context of the reading.

Heyse's charming story will give the pupil a happy introduction to the rich literature of Germany and should encourage him to go farther into that fascinating field.

J. A. S.

AN INTERMEDIATE COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY. By L. Dudley Stamp. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 1931. Part I—Commodities and World Trade. Pp. 262. \$2.50. Part II—The Economic Geography of Leading Countries. Pp. 516. \$4.00.

As the title of Part I suggests, the volume treats of the essentials of economic geography on a world basis, that is, on a basis of commodities and world trade. In

Part II, the reader is given a brief recapitulation of the main aspects of the regional geography of the continents to serve as a foundation for the consideration of the economic or commercial geography of the more important countries. The author holds to the purpose of writing a text which works from cause to effect. Since he is a member of the faculty of the London School of Economics, the texts have the advantage of presenting the viewpoint of a resident of another country. The following four characteristics recommend the text: it is interesting reading; the illustrations are thought-provoking; the principles of geography are considered; and the author is careful to indicate that general descriptions have exceptions within a specified area.

R. M. H.

SIXTH BOOK OF SONGS. By Robert Foresman. New York: American Book Company. 1932. Pp. 304.

A splendid song book for grades 6 to 9. The songs represent the best writers of the past and present. All the part songs are well arranged, taking into consideration the limitations of the voice at this time.

The book is well prepared and is indexed according to topics and part arrangements. Large and clear notes and print make it easy for the eye to follow the score.

Such a series would be an asset to any school as either a standard text or as a reference book.

L. H.

TREASURE CHEST OF SONGS. By Ernest G. Hesser and Bessie Shipman Dustman. New York: American Book Company. 1932. Pp. 236. 96 cents.

Unison songs for seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, including hymns, patriotic songs, chanteys, "alma mater" songs, and folk songs. With the exception of the last-named group a similar collection may be purchased at lower price and in a more convenient and usable edition. The book is in good form, with a variety of indexes, good binding, and clear print.

L. H.

NEWS OF THE COLLEGE

Katye Wray Brown, Roanoke, will head the student body for the '32-'33 session. Other student government officers are Sarah Face, Hampton, vice-president; Laura Melchor, Winston-Salem, N. C., secretary-treasurer; Lois Bishop, Norfolk, recorder of points; Sarah Lemmon, Atlanta, Ga., editor of the Handbook.

Emma Jane Shultz, Staunton, will be president of the Y. W. C. A., with Virginia Ruby, Lynchburg, vice-president; Elizabeth Tudor, Thomasville, N. C., secretary; Rebecca Comer, Roanoke, treasurer.

Emilyn Peterson, Lake City, Florida, will head the Athletic Association. Margaret Campbell, Richmond, and Marietta Melson, Machipongo, will be vice-president and business manager.

Christobel Childs, Orange, and Virginia Jones, Gordonsville, will edit and conduct the business of the *Breeze*, student newspaper.

Lois Drewry, Clifton Forge, and Catherine Manke, Hampton, head the *Schoolma'am*, student yearbook.

Katye Wray Brown, Roanoke, and Christobel Childs, Orange, are president and secretary of the Presidents' Council.

Dorothy Harris, Carson, is the '32-'33 president of Kappa Delta Pi, national honorary educational society. Prudence Spooner, Franklin, will head the Stratford Dramatic Club, and Elizabeth Bush, Long Island, New York, the Glee Club. Sarah Lemmon, Atlanta, will wield the pen as chief scribe of the Scribblers.

Dorothy Martin, Norfolk, heads the artists as president of the Art Club. Priscilla Harmon, Harrisonburg, conducts the orchestra. Hilda Hisey, Edinburg, and Ruth Behrens, Timberville, are presidents of Le Cercle Français and the Debating Club.

Elizabeth Carson, Lynchburg, will be president of the Cotillion Club.

Heads of the Æolian Music Club, of the